

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08168 021449Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 SP-02 SSO-00 /030 W  
-----053063 021452Z /43

O 021414Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2332  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8168

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, GR  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN OBSERVER ATTENDANCE AT GREEK EXERCISE  
PHILLIPOS 77

REF: A) USDAO ATHENS MSG 291300Z AUG 77  
B) TELECON CAPT. STORY, DIA/AH-2/CAPT RODGERS DATT SEP 1  
C) TELECON EUR/SE-MONTON/CHARGE MILLS, SEP 1.

1. AS REQUESTED REF C, FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND  
ON EXERCISE PHILLIPOS 77 TO SUPPLEMENT REF A AND TO  
EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ATTENDANCE OF AMERICAN  
INVITEES.

2. ALL FOREIGN ATTACHES ACCREDITED TO GREECE HAVE BEEN  
INVITED AS OBSERVERS, NOTABLE AMONG WHOM ARE ALL NATO  
ALLIES INCLUDING THE TURKS, AS WELL AS THE BULGARIANS,  
SOVIETS AND CHINESE (PRC). (THE FRENCH ATTACHE EVEN  
SOLICITED AN EXTRA INVITATION FOR HIS AIR ASSISTANT  
WHILE THE BRITISH DATT CHANGED HIS LEAVE PLANS IN  
ORDER TO ATTEND.) ADDITIONALLY, CHIEF, JUSMAGG AND HIS  
THREE SECTION CHIEFS ARE INVITED. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ALL  
INVITEES HAVE ACCEPTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08168 021449Z

3. IN ADDITION TO THE EXERCISE INVITATION, ALL OBSERVERS  
HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND RECEPTIONS HOSTED BY GEN.  
DAVOS, NATIONAL DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF CHIEF, IN  
ALEXANDROUPOLIS AND BY THE "C" CORPS COMMANDER IN  
THESSALONIKI AS WELL AS A PARADE IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS  
ON THE LAST DAY AT WHICH IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT  
PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND/OR PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS WILL

TAKE THE SALUTE.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OBSERVER PROGRAM INCLUDE: THE AIRLIFT OF OBSERVERS BY HELICOPTER TO AN OBSERVATION POST IN THE VICINITY OF AMFIPOLIS TO VIEW AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSUALT IN THE ORPHANES GULF HALFWAY BETWEEN THESSALONIKI AND KAVALA; AIRLIFT TO A POST IN THE VICINITY OF KOMOTINI TO OBSERVE AN AIRBORNE ASSUALT; AND TRANSPORT TO SYKORACHI TO VIEW A GROUND ASSUALT. THE PROGRAM APPEARS TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE NATO-SPONSORED EXERCISE "ALEXNADER EXPRESS" OF PREVIOUS YEARS. EVEN THE LOCATIONS OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SIMILAR. THE DIRECTOR OF ARMY INTELLIGENCE TOLD ARMA RECENTLY THAT THE SCENARIO IS SIMILAR TO THAT FOR NATO EXERCISES AND ASSUMES A BULGARIAN ATTACK ACROSS THE MARITSA RIVER WITH TWO SPEARHEADS, ONE INTO EASTERN THRACE AND ONE INTO WESTERN THRACE ACROSS THE EVROS RIVER.

5. ALTHOUGH THE GREEK FORCES WILL ACTUALLY BE CONDUCTING A "TRAINING EXERCISE" DURING THESE DAYS, THE PORTION SEEN BY THE OBSERVERS MIGHT BE BETTER CLASSIFIED AS A DEMONSTRATION. IT IS CLEARLY STAGED TO IMPRESS THE INVITEES. THE PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS AND OBSERVERS WILL BE HOUSED THERE, BUT THE OBSERVED PORTIONS OF THE EXERCISE ARE ALL SITUATED WELL BACK FROM THE GREEK/TURKISH BORDER.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     ATHENS 08168 021449Z

6. THE ABSENCE OF U.S. OBSERVERS, AS DIRECTED BY REF B, WOULD NOT ONLY IMPACT ADVERSELY ON US/GREEK RELATIONS GENERALLY BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE RELATIONSHIPS HERE BETWEEN OUR ATTACHES/JUSMAGG AND THE GREEK MILITARY. THEY WOULD BE MOST CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE, PARTICULARLY SINCE ALL HAVE ALREADY INDICATED ACCEPTANCE AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE GREEK ARMY. A PULLOUT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE OBVIOUS AND A SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC AFFRONT TO THE GREEK ARMED FORCES. IT WOULD IMPACT SEVERELY ON OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GREEK MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN BOTH BILATERAL AND NATO MILITARY EXERCISE AND MIGHT DISTRUB THE GREEK DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION LATER THIS MONTH. IT WOULD DEGRADE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR ATTACHES WHO HAVE BEEN REBUILDING THE KIND OF CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED WITH THE GREEK MILITARY. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO JUSMAGG'S LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR USE OF MAP EQUIPMENT. IN SUM, WE WOULD BE SENDING ALL THE WRONG SIGNALS AT THIS DELICATE STAGE IN IMPROVING

U.S./GREEK RELATIONS.

7. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT  
DIRECTIVE PASSED IN REF B BE REVERSED ASAP SO THAT  
AMERICAN INVITEES MAY OBSERVE EXERCISE PHILLIPOS  
SEPTEMBER 8-11. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE  
FOR MG BRESNAHAN ALSO TO OBSERVE THIS EXERCISE.  
MILLS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING OBSERVERS, MILITARY EXERCISES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ATHENS08168  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770318-0917  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197709105/aaaadkdt.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 696f8739-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1077158  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMERICAN OBSERVER ATTENDANCE AT GREEK EXERCISE PHILLIPOS 77  
**TAGS:** MPOL, GR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/696f8739-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009